

Request for Applications

Issued by:

NEBRASKA PLANNING COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Department of Health and Human Services

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The Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities announces the availability of funds for Opportunity Subaward projects. Opportunity Subaward funds are intended to support smaller, innovative projects that do not meet the more formalized request for applications that the Council releases each year. In order to encourage smaller entities to apply, the application process is simplified. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Council office for assistance. Funds for these projects are provided by the Council, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, through the Federal Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

Qualification and Guidelines

Opportunity Subaward projects are funded for only one year. Projects should be focused on improving the lives of persons with developmental disabilities and their families. A definition of developmental disability is included for your reference. Opportunity Subaward projects must address one of the four goals in the Council's 2017-2021 State Plan. Applicants should justify how their project supports inclusion and self-direction, as well as how the project can be sustained beyond the one-year subaward period.

Council Goals

Projects must address one of the following goals and objectives:

Goal 1. Improve transition across the lifespan of more individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) of diverse identities and their families.

Objective A. An increased number of individuals transitioning out of special education and their families will be provided with information to expand their knowledge of adult services and other community resources for adult living.

Objective B. An increased number of adults with I/DD and their aging families will be identified through outreach activities and provided with information to expand their knowledge of adult services and other community resources.

Objective C. An increased number of individuals with I/DD and their families will be provided with information to expand their knowledge and acquire skills for developing self-directed, person-centered plans.

Goal 2. Improve advocacy, self-advocacy, and self-determination for more individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) of diverse identities and their families.

Objective A. Strengthen support for an increased number of self-advocates through leadership development and coalition participation by:

1. Supplying direct funding to People First of Nebraska for advocacy activities.
2. Supporting opportunities for individuals with I/DD who are considered leaders to provide leadership training to individuals with I/DD who may become leaders.
3. Supporting participation of self-advocates in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions.
4. Support the development of a curriculum to be used statewide for the development of self-advocacy and self-determination skills.

Objective B. Advocate for positive systems change impacting the lives and health of individuals with I/DD of diverse identities and their families through active participation in: statewide advisory committees and cross-disability workgroups; public policy advocacy; cross-systems dialogue; and DD Network collaboration.

Objective C. Collaborate among the Nebraska DD Network Partners (Disability Rights Nebraska, Munroe-Meyer Institute University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities [UCEDD], and the Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities) to advocate for positive systems change impacting the lives and health of individuals with I/DD.

Objective D. Address the targeted disparity issue with African-American male students with developmental disabilities who are incarcerated or enter the criminal justice system at higher statistical rates by:

1. Improving systemic collaboration in the areas of education, developmental disabilities, behavioral health, children and family services, and the judicial system.
2. Decreasing, through systems collaboration, the number of out of school suspensions resulting from zero tolerance policies.
3. Conducting additional activities to reduce this disparity, including outreach, training, and education.

Goal 3. Influence systems change to provide increased opportunities for more individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) of diverse identities to pursue an employment path of their choice.

Objective A. Provide support to address barriers, advocate for, and expand opportunities for an increased number of individuals to participate in community integrated employment or entrepreneurship.

Objective B. Increase opportunities for self-advocates to share employment experiences and promote community integrated employment and entrepreneurship with peers and stakeholders.

Objective C. Provide access to benefits planning services for an increased number of service providers, individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities and their families to support the person's employment choices.

Goal 4. Increase community inclusion for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) of diverse identities.

Objective A. Increase opportunities for community inclusion for individuals with I/DD.

Objective B. Expand & enhance respite care services throughout the state.

Objective C. Expand & enhance inclusive childcare opportunities throughout the state.

Definitions

Diverse Identities refers to people of various races, cultural and ethnic heritages, genders, gender identities, gender expressions, sexual orientations, ages, and religions from diverse socio-economic and geographic backgrounds.

Community Integrated Employment refers to working for a competitive wage in a community-based job (i.e., a job that is not based in a community rehabilitation facility) at 20 hours a week or more. The employment must be in a work setting where, to the greatest extent possible, the employment typically involves interaction with co-workers and business associates who do not have disabilities and/or the general public. Integrated employment includes employment located in community businesses, self-employment, and ownership of micro-enterprises.

Benefits Planning Complex disability benefit regulations have made it difficult for individuals with disabilities to enter the workforce while still maintaining essential healthcare coverage and disability benefits. Benefits planning services help individuals with disabilities develop an individualized plan to reach self-sufficiency through full use of state and federal work incentive programs. Benefits planning services investigate how changes in employment, earnings, marital status, or other circumstances may affect an individual's health coverage and benefits.

Community Inclusion refers to areas such as where an individual lives, works, or goes to school; relationships; pursuit of personal interests; meeting spiritual needs; learning and personal growth; physical and emotional health; self-direction; and exercising rights, roles and responsibilities as a citizen.

Developmental Disability Definition The term "developmental disability" means a severe, chronic disability of a person that:

- Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
- Is manifested before the person attains age twenty-two;

- Is likely to continue indefinitely;
- Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: (a) self-care; (b) receptive and expressive language; (c) learning; (d) mobility; (e) self-direction; (f) capacity for independent living; and (g) economic self-sufficiency;
- Reflects the individual's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary or generic services, individualized supports, or other forms of assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated;
- Is an individual from birth to age 9, inclusive, who has a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition, may be considered to have a developmental disability without meeting three or more functional limitations in major life activities, if the individual, without services and supports, has a high probability of meeting those criteria later in life.

Key Pieces to include in Subaward Application

Project Timeline

Projects will be expected to begin February 1, 2017 and must be completed by January 31, 2018. The Opportunity Subaward application requires applicants to include a work plan and timeline with their proposal.

Community Support

The Council is mandated by federal law with assuring that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families are integrated and included in all facets of community life. Community inclusion factors are taken into consideration when Council members review applications. The extent that a subaward application promotes full participation of the target population in the same activities of community life, recreation, employment, and education being utilized by other community members goes into the decision process. Inclusion of the larger community in the planning and implementation of the project proposal is important to enhance awareness and the expectation of success.

Project Sustainability

Council subawards are awarded for one year. Applicants must describe in detail their plan to sustain the project once Council funds end (i.e., who will maintain the project after the subaward cycle ends). Subaward applicants can increase the likelihood that projects will be sustained by including local community service groups, businesses, public education, and local government entities in their development. The plan should identify the activities, features, or practices that the applicant wants to sustain.

Subaward Funds and Match

Opportunity Subaward projects can be funded for a minimum of \$5,000 up to a maximum of \$10,000. Applicants are required to provide a 25% match of the funds requested. The match can be either cash or in-kind. Cash match is support provided to a project by an agency that they would have to pay for. Examples include part of someone's salary, rental space, or postage. In-kind match examples are donated time or items such as volunteer time or copying provided by a business.

Council subaward funds **cannot** be used for the following:

- To purchase equipment, including computers
- Ongoing operating expenses
- Construction or renovation costs
- Direct services for people with developmental disabilities (unless these services are part of a model demonstration).

Application Requirements

- Applicants must use the Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities Opportunity Subaward Application format. This format is available on the Council's website.
- Applications are limited to five pages of narrative, the included budget form, one page for the budget justification, and letters of commitment/support from partners, if any, who are part of the project. The Council will not consider additional pages.
- For ease of reading, please use a font size no smaller than 11 point.
- Submitted applications must include the signed Cover Sheet and the Department of Health and Human Services Subaward Terms and Assurances. Please note that by submitting and signing the application, the applicant agrees that if a subaward is awarded, subrecipient will operate the program as described in the Subaward Application for funding in accordance with the Subaward Terms and Assurances.
- The individual signing these documents must be authorized to legally bind the applicant.

In addition, subrecipients will be required to conduct a standardized consumer satisfaction survey for their project activities and report the results to the Council office.

Applications are due in the Council Office by **Monday, October 31, 2016 by 5:00 p.m.** Applications received after this deadline will not be considered. Applications can be mailed, hand-delivered, or e-mailed in Word format. It is the applicant's responsibility to check to see if the Council office received the application. The Council's contact information can be found at the beginning of this announcement.